

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, January 19, 2006

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

Member Absent: William Coogan

**Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of
Schools Joseph R. Krupowicz, Asst Superintendent**

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. The Budget
Workshop was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Michael
Crowley. Unanimous vote.**

Four budget goals were proposed:

I. All budget decisions will be filtered through the district's focus of "Reaching Higher Standards" for all, as well as the five main district goals.

The five Budget Goals are:

- 1. By 2007, all Middletown students will be assured of the opportunity to achieve high educational standards.**
- 2. By 2007, all staff will participate in collaboratively designed district and building level professional development and evaluation activities designed to support improved student learning as targeted by the SALT, NEASC, district and state assessment data.**
- 3. By 2007, all Middletown schools will manage and utilize all available resources to improve student achievement.**
- 4. By 2007, all Middletown schools will be safe, orderly, accessible, attractive, substance abuse free, creative learning environments that promote productivity and stimulate learning.**
- 5. By 2007, all Middletown schools will increase involvement by parents, students, family and community in decision-making and support for student learning.**

II. Maintain a systemic approach to long-term building maintenance, facilities, custodial services and capital improvement items.

III. Support instructional programming in the following areas:

- a. High School Regulations**
- b. Professional Development**
- c. Curriculum Development**
- d. Alternative Education**

- e. Technology Integration**
- f. Special Education Services**
- g. Instructional Practices**

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IV. Provide a budget guidebook describing the budget process, timelines, spending trends and other information that will enable better understanding behind the budget requests and decisions. Enrollment projection explanation will be included this year.

There are a number of challenges as we develop the 06-07 budget; enrollment decline, level funded State Aid and increases in certified and non-certified retirement.

The Budget Workshops will be held on the following dates:

February 2, 2006 5:30 p.m. Aquidneck School

February 9, 2006 5:30 p.m. J.H. Gaudet School

February 16, 2006 5:30 p.m. Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting at Oliphant Administration

March 16, 2006 5:30 p.m. Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting at Oliphant Administration

March 23, 2006 5:30 p.m. Adopt Budget at Oliphant Administration

Mrs. Kraeger met with the Building Principals today to update them

on the budget.

Mr. Crowley would like to combine all the elementary school presentations into one budget meeting and the middle and high school presentations into one meeting.

Mrs. Spengler said that even though the budget would probably not support any new requests, principals should be able to voice their needs because they will have to be addressed in the future.

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All members present, with the exception of Mr. Coogan. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito, Gail Abromitis and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

There was no “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for January 19, 2006.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week

- Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

There were no Student Activities for January 19, 2006.

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INFORMATION

- **At the Parent Leadership Team meeting on January 9th, goals were developed. One goal is to develop a link on the school website with common school terms, to assist parents in understanding terminology used.**
- **Letter received from Dennis Litkey, Director of the MET School, informing the school department that a freshman class will begin on the island in September. A group from EBEC will visit the MET School in Providence on January 25th.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from John McDevitt, Athletic Director, requesting that

representatives from the Middletown Athletic Boosters address the School Committee regarding the possibility of offering Freshman Baseball and Basketball.

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Mr. John McDevitt, Athletic Director, updated the committee on the consolidation of the sports program. Freshman baseball and basketball were dropped last year because of a realignment of coaches. Mr. McDevitt is requesting that freshman baseball be reinstated this spring, with the cost of coaches and transportation covered by funds remaining from a parent group. There would be a minimal cost in the following years, but it would allow many students the opportunity to play.

Freshman basketball could be reinstated next year for a minimal cost. Mr. McDevitt said it would be possible to move a coach from one sport to cover basketball. Volunteer assistant coaches are also a possibility.

Mrs. Spengler asked if there are other teams to play against. Mr. McDevitt said that Rogers, Portsmouth, Tiverton, and Mt. Hope all have freshman teams.

Letter from Claudia Vars, Director of Fine Arts, requesting funds to help offset the cost of a Middletown High School student attending the American Choral Directors Association High School Honors Choir

in New York City on February 15-18, 2006.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee receive the communication and move to an Action Item. Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

• CURRICULUM – The new Program of Studies has a few subtle, positive changes. Mr. Krupowicz thanked Mr. Ruscito and his staff for all the effort in developing the booklet. On January 23rd, all administrators will participate in the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Learning workshop in Warren. The Gaudet School Spelling Bee will be held that same day. MET School visit will be on January 25th. Workshops continue for KITES, HELMS, Science Notebooks, 7 Keys to Comprehension, and monthly meetings with All Saints Academy (Title I). An LLT meeting will be held on February 9th. The Homeless Grant for \$100,000 will be filed on Monday or Tuesday. There are 57 homeless students in Middletown. This includes Katrina/Rita evacuees.

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• FINANCIAL – The School Department was approached to file a \$100,000 McKinley Homeless Grant. There is also Federal emergency aid for displaced students. There is approximately \$6,000 for each

displaced student and \$7,500 for students with disabilities. The budget process and workshops have begun. To date, 39.14% of budget has been expended, which is in line with previous years. Certified pensions will increase from 9.72 to 11.62% and non-certified pensions will increase from 2.42 to 9.54%.

- **RECREATION COLLABORATION** – Mrs. Kraeger recently met with Recreation Director Tim Shaw and developed three goals: 1) To implement a “Schools Out” program for February and April vacations, 2) After-School Program at Gaudet School funded by the Town and, 3) A Summer School Recreation Program. Fliers for a February school vacation “Winter Wonderland” program at Kennedy School have been given to students.

- **OTHER REPORTS** – Steven Ruscito reported that the NEASC Report still needs to be approved at end of month. It was delivered to staff this week. A Press Release will go out next week. In March, we will receive approval. Mr. Ruscito read excerpts from the report.

- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that from July through November, the cost of overtime has decreased \$18,000. The entire cafeteria roof and a part of the foyer roof at Middletown High School were lost during a recent windstorm. The cafeteria sub-roof is still in tact, but the foyer is covered with a tarp. Interior painting at Aquidneck School will begin next week. There is concern among staff about the product being used. A letter of assurance that the paint is safe has

been sent to all staff. There was Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. An interview team of four committee members was put together to interview companies for the RFQ.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of November 17, School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2005 Executive Session
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 15, 2005 in the amount of \$508,546.77
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 18, 2005, in the amount of \$179,924.45
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 6, 2005, in the amount of \$441,718.38
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 9, 2005, in the amount of \$221.35
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 16, 2005, in the amount of \$209,963.76
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 19, 2005, in the

amount of \$1087.23

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 23 2005, in the amount of \$287,525.76**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 3, 2006, in the amount of \$880.97**

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 10, 2006, in the amount of \$478,186.91**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated November 16, 2005, in the amount of \$30,180.23**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated November 30, 2005, in the amount of \$38,147.73**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 7, 2005, in the amount of \$6,000.00**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 15, 2005, in the amount of \$30,347.53**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 29, 2005, in the amount of \$13,286.63**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated January 10, 2006, in the amount of \$58,188.31**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated November 30, 2005, in the amount of \$9,743,922.22**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated December 31, 2005, in the**

amount of \$12,230,199.70

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION

**Steve Croughan Girls Varsity Track & Field Coach
Varsity Cross Country Coach**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Tracey Whitehead Social Studies Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School
From December 11, 2005 until December 11, 2006**

**Mary Donaldson Teacher Assistant, J.F. Kennedy School
To the end of February 2006**

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

**Susan Cunningham Science Teacher, Middletown High School
From January 9, 2006 for 67 days**

**Ramona Bessinger English Teacher, Middletown High School
From January 20, 2006 until the end of the 2005-2006 School Year**

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Renee Kaminitz Librarian, J.F. Kennedy School

From January 17, 2006 to January 20, 2006

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Michael Clancey Boys' Varsity Basketball

David MacGregor Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Raleigh Brennan Boys' 6/7/8 Grade Basketball

Christine Martin Girls' Varsity Basketball

Justin Buffman Girls' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Heidi Gauch Girls' 6/7/8 Grade Basketball

Russell Forgue Varsity Wrestling

Richard Francis, Jr. Assistant Varsity Wrestling

Andrew Bulk 6/7/8 Grade Wrestling

Heather Markman Varsity Swim

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Tara Donovan Assistant Varsity Swim

Elizabeth Scott Varsity Gymnastics

Stephen Saunders Varsity Hockey

Eric Godin Assistant Varsity Hockey

Kimberly Tibor Cheerleading Advisor

Kelly McCarthy Cheerleading Advisor

WINTER VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

David Biestek 6/7/8 Grade Wrestling

Dustin Almeida 6/7/8 Grade Wrestling

William Nash Varsity Hockey

The School Committee voted to extend the contract for Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Business Manager to 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

- **STUDENT COUNCIL/CHARTWELLS – Mrs. Kraeger met with members of the Student Council, Mr. Brian Buck, Student Council Advisor, and representative from Chartwells to discuss items. Chartwells then met with Mrs. McLeish and Mrs. Kraeger to develop a plan. The Student Council will receive 10% of water sales. Another vending machine will sell Healthy Choice ice cream and 10% of the profits will go to the Student Council. Chartwells sells Cool Tropics drinks, of which 15% of the profits the Student Council will receive. Mrs. Spengler expressed concern that the products sold do not contain chemicals, such as Aspartame. The School Store will be the next topic of discussion.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business for January 19, 2006.

ACTION ITEMS

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee award the Snow Removal Contract to Peckham Brothers Co., Inc. Unanimous Vote.

PEST CONTROL BID

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Pest Control Bid to Terminex. Unanimous vote.

LAIDLAW CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the amended Laidlaw contract for an additional two years. Unanimous vote.

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR HR6 – TITLE 8 – 874 IMPACT AID

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for HR6 – title 8 – 874 Impact Aid. Unanimous vote.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2006. Unanimous vote.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY (1st Reading)

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the School Committee Policy, Part II “Administration” and Appendices I, II, III and Software Policy (1st Reading). Unanimous vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee approve the recommended capital improvement projects and forward to the Town Council. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To allocate \$250.00 to offset the cost of a student competing in New York City in February. 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Edward Draper – The Safety Advisory Committee has had two very productive meetings. The committee is supported by the Town with police presence and various townspeople. One focus area is the

transition age from middle school to high school and how these students can best be reached.

Mr. Draper reported that the Technology Committee has met. There is town/library/school collaboration. There is a need to find common areas where these three groups can share talent and resources.

Liana Fenton – Business Education Partnership – Middletown High School is working to develop business partnerships. There are currently three students ready to participate in a partnership in a month or two.

Mrs. Kraeger said that the High School Administration and Guidance Counselors met with Grade 8 teachers and counselors to schedule students. The students chose their classes for next year electronically.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk